



Electronic Data Reporting Template

Closing the Gap Results Report (Large Group)

School: Midvale Middle

Target Group: 8th grade students

Target Group selection is based upon: Greater understanding of graduation requirements prior to entering 9th grade

Key Word: Four year plan

ABSTRACT

Counselors spent two days in 8th grade classes going over graduation requirements, developing a four year plan for each student, and describing high school options. Each student was given information on preparing for high school, options after high school, and programs available to them during their 11th and 12th grade years. On the first day a pre-test was given to each student asking 11 specific questions about graduation. Questions asked were those deemed most important and least understood by students from previous years and information collected from high schools. Following the two day in class instructions (approximately 2 months afterwards), counselors administered the same 11 question test to help evaluate how much the students were able to learn and what was lacking and needed to be discussed further. Results from the post-test revealed that 58% or 123 students scored 80% or higher on the questionnaire. In contrast, the results from the pre-test revealed that only 12% or 34 students scored 80% or higher on the questionnaire. There was an overall increase of 89 students who did 80% or better on the post-test after having participated in the two day sessions. From these results, we were able to determine that the information presented by the counselors did offer more knowledge to 8th grade students on graduation requirements.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Introduction

- To better inform 8th grade students about graduation requirements, 4 year high school plan, IB, JATC, AP and concurrent enrollment classes. Eighth graders that understand graduation requirements will be better prepared and have greater options during high school and upon graduating

Participants

- 242 students
- 8th grade students attending one or both class sessions

Method

- Learn what classes they need to sign up for in the next 4 years and what programs are available to them. They will learn the required classes vs. elective classes needed for graduation. Each student will fill out a personal 4 year plan that allows the student to visually understand what has been discussed on graduation requirements and what classes they would like to take in the next four years in order to graduate
- Projected start date is February 1, 2009 and projected end is April 30, 2009
- Lessons will be presented in 8th grade History classes
- Evaluation method used is a pre and post test with eleven questions (please see 8th grade pre/post-test high school credit information on last page) assessing knowledge on graduation
- Counselors: Karen Ward and Bob Spears

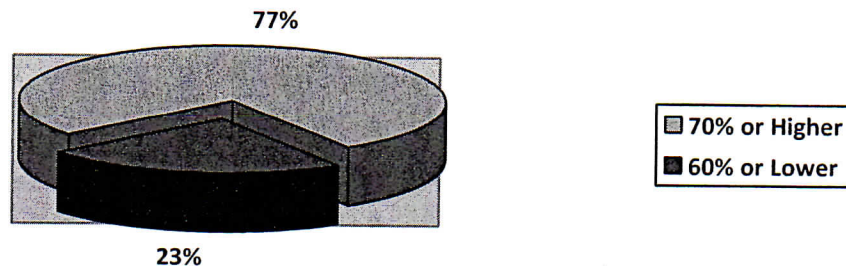
RESULTS

There were 242 students that participated on the pre-test and 212 on the post-test. On the pre-test 83 students scored 70% or higher, and 159 students scored 60% or lower (see pre-test graph below). This gave us the result of 34% of students who scored 70% or above prior to counselor presentations. After counselor presentations, 183 students scored 70% or higher and 55 scored 60% or lower. From the counselor presentations, the majority of students (77%) were able to score at least 70% or higher on the post-test (see post-test graph below).

Pre-Test Percentage

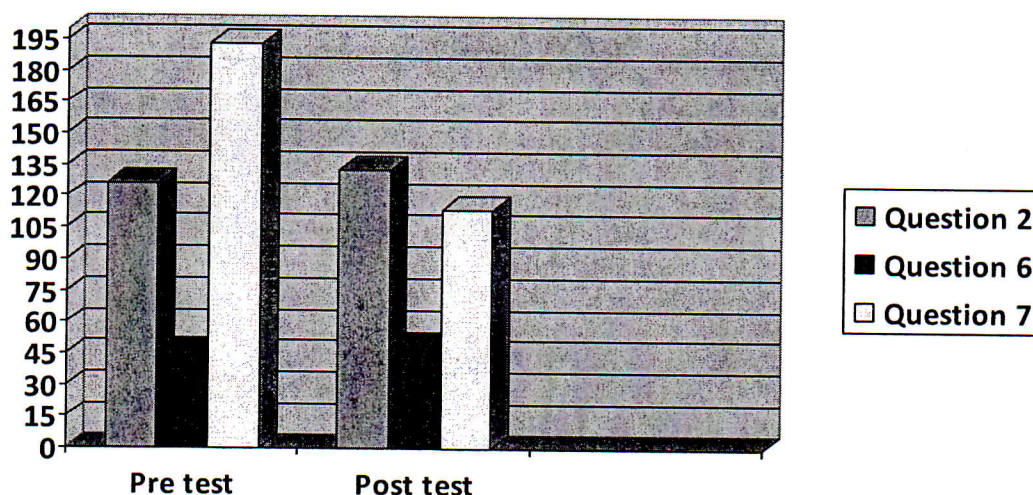


Post-Test Percentage



Listed below there is a graph that highlights the results from questions 2, 6, and 7. These questions provided some surprising results that were not anticipated. From question number 2 the pre-test results showed 126 students missed this question. The results from the post-test showed an increase of 7 more students or 133 missing the question. Question number 6 also

showed an increase in the number of students missing the question. The pre-test resulted in 46 missing the question and the post-test increased to 49 students. Another question that was still quite high on students missing was question number 7. Pre-test showed that 193 students missed the question and from the post-test results decreased only to 114 students. Although this was a decrease, we had hoped that it would have been lower after discussing the PST requirements with students.



DISCUSSION

It is vital for students in the 8th grade to understand and know what options they have prior to beginning high school. For this reason, we have spent time in classes discussing high school requirements and what students need to do in order to plan for the right classes in high school. We believe that this preparation will not only help them in high school but prepare them also for life after high school as well. From our pre test we were able to determine that most of the 8th grade students were unaware of what classes they needed to take and what options they have in high school. After developing a four year plan with these students we were able to educate and provide information that students need.

Although there was an increase in students doing better, overall we had hoped that more students would have retained more of the information. As mentioned in the result section, some questions resulted in an increase after having discussed the information with students. This was a little disheartening. Question number 2 has always been something we have struggled with in getting students to understand at Midvale Middle. Because all ALPS students are required to take a foreign language, many students struggle with understanding that it is not a graduation requirement but a program requirement. Question number 6 which also showed an increase, was something that we had not anticipated at all. We had discussed this but for some reason some students felt they needed to take this while at Midvale Middle. We are not sure if it was the same students that had missed this question or a new group of students. Question 7 was a question that we spent a lot more time on discussing in the classroom. We feel that it is extremely important that students understand that PST is a class that they must take and pass

in the 9th grade in order to graduate from high school. After discussing this with the students there was a decrease in students missing the question, but 114 we felt was still very high due to the amount of time that was spent discussing the PST requirement.

Future plans are to continue the class sessions with up-to-date information. From the results we felt that it would be important to spend more time on reviewing the questions with students following the post-test results. Currently we have not shared the post-test results with students and perhaps doing so may help emphasize questions or requirements that are confusing to students. These classroom four year plan sessions have proved to be beneficial during our 8th grade SEOP's. The SEOP has allowed us to have time to review over the process and answer questions that might have been confusing to students. It may be beneficial to hand out another post-test asking the same question after students have met with counselors for their SEOP. These results may show that students are able to gain a greater understanding of the graduation requirements and perhaps clear up some confusion.

8th Grade Pre/Post-Test---High School Credit Information

1. How many credits are required in order to graduate from high school?
a. 17 b. 27 c. 32
2. You must take 2 years of a foreign language to graduate from high school.
a. True b. False
3. I only have to take 2 math classes in grades 9-12 in order to graduate from high school.
a. True b. False
4. I may complete an Associates Degree while earning my high school diploma
a. True b. False
5. If I fail just one class in grades 9-12 while taking Release Time Seminary each year, no make up credits will be necessary.
a. True b. False
6. Computer Tech is a required class at Midvale Middle School
a. True b. False
7. High School Sports Teams can take the place of 9th grade PST credit.
a. True b. False
8. If you change your mind about an elective course, you may make a schedule change at any time.
a. True b. False
9. Elective classes like art and woodshop do not count toward graduation credits.
a. True b. False
10. 9th Grade grades do not count when applying to 4 year colleges.
a. True b. False
11. Maintaining a 3.5 or higher GPA, starting with the 9th grade, will provide you with academic scholarships?
a. True b. False